(b) Ms. ICICI Ltd. was asked to submit the report within four months, i.e., by the end of July, 1997.

(c) and (d) Ms. ICICI Ltd. has recently submitted a draft preliminary report. They are, however, awaiting certain input from National Ship Design & Reserach Centre (NSDRC), Visakhapatnam. This has since been given to M/s. ICICI Ltd. who are likely to submit their final report on the long term revival of HDPE shortly.

New National Highways in Gujarat

889. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4236 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 1997 and state;

(a) the present length of National Highway in each State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total length of NH in Gujarat is much less than as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take in order to give justice to the State in this regard; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the development of NH in the State during the Ninth Plan period and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A statement showing details is given below.

(b) and (c) Since National Highways are intended to serve National interests as distinct from local interests, Roads are declared as National Highways keeping in view the country as a whole and not on any 'regional area/populationState basis.

(d) The 9th Plan is yet to be finalised. However, for the corrent year 1997-98, the State Government of Gujarat has been allocated funds to the tune of Rs. 35 crores for the development of National Highways.

Statement

Length of National Highway in Different States.

S. No.	Name of States	Total Length (Km.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330
3.	Assam	2296
4.	Bihar	2547
5.	Chandigarh	24
6.	Delhi	72
7.	Goa	229
8.	Gujarat	1631
9.	Haryana	698
10.	Himachal Pradesh	854
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	648
12.	Karnataka	1996
13.	Kerala	940
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2946
15.	Maharashtra	2918
16.	Manipur	431
17.	Meghalaya	472
18.	Mizoram	551
19.	Nagaland	113
20.	Orissa	1649
21.	Pondicherry	23
22.	Punjab	892
23.	Rajasthan	2931
24.	Sikkim	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	1896
26.	Tripura	200
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2733
28.	West Bengal	1638
	TOTAL:	34,608

Merchant Vessels Sank in Indian Waters

890. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJ-ARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Merchant Vessels sank in Indian waters in the month of June 1997;

(b) If so, the loss of life and property as a result thereof and the names of such